

FREE LIBRARY OF PHILADELPHIA, LOGAN BRANCH
1333 Wagner Avenue
Philadelphia
Philadelphia
Pennsylvania

HABS PA-6757
PA-6757

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20240-0001

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

FREE LIBRARY OF PHILADELPHIA, LOGAN BRANCH

HABS NO. PA-6757

Location: 1333 Wagner Avenue at Old York Road, Philadelphia, Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania. The library faces south-southwest onto Wagner Avenue on a plot of land demarcated by roads that cut diagonally across the otherwise grid-pattern of streets. It is located a block from Broad Street, a main commercial thoroughfare through the city, and is bordered to the east by residences.

Owner: The library is part of the Free Library of Philadelphia system and is owned by the City of Philadelphia.

Present Use: Branch library

Significance: Completed in 1918, the Logan Branch of the Free Library of Philadelphia was the twenty-first of twenty-five branch libraries built through an endowment from industrialist-turned-philanthropist Andrew Carnegie. The impact of Carnegie's grant program on the development of public libraries cannot be overstated. He came of age in an era when libraries were rare, privately funded institutions and access was through subscription. Believing in the power of libraries to create an egalitarian society that favored hard work over social privilege by allowing equal access to knowledge, between 1886 and 1917 he provided forty million dollars for the construction of 1,679 libraries throughout the nation. The vast resources that he allotted to library research and construction contributed significantly to the development of the American Library as a building type. In addition, by insisting that municipalities supply a building site, books, and annual maintenance funds before bestowing grants Carnegie elevated libraries from the arena of private philanthropy to that of civic responsibility.

Philadelphia was the recipient of one of the largest Carnegie grants for library construction. Although the city was among the first to establish a free library system, it had no purpose-built structures prior to the Carnegie endowment. The branch libraries were built between 1905 and 1930, under the direction of the city appointed Carnegie Fund Committee, and designed by a "who's-who" of Philadelphia's architects. The twenty extant branch libraries remain as a remarkable intact and cohesive grouping, rivaled only by that of New York City, with fifty-seven.¹ The Logan Branch was designed by John T. Windrim. Recognized for his successful architectural practice designing commercial, public,

¹ Carnegie provided funding beginning in 1903 for thirty branch libraries, but with rising construction costs, only twenty-five could be built, the last few of which were subsidized by the city. Of Philadelphia's twenty-five libraries, four are no longer extant and a fifth (Frankford) has been altered beyond recognition. Four others are no longer used as library buildings. In New York, fifty-seven were still standing in 1996. The next single largest grants for branch libraries were given to Cleveland (15), Baltimore (14), and Cincinnati (10).

and municipal buildings, Windrim had already executed plans for the Passyunk Branch and would go on to design the Nicetown Branch (no longer extant), and to serve on the Library Board. Logan Branch is somewhat more staid and classically inspired than the typical Philadelphia branch library, although it follows the symmetrically arrangement and T-plan that came to define Carnegie libraries in Philadelphia and nationwide. Its less ornate detailing is a consequence of dwindling endowment funds brought on as war-time shortages inflated the cost of building materials and labor.

Historian: Catherine C. Lavoie

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: The Logan Branch Library was erected between 1917 and 1918. The city claimed the lot for the construction of the library in January of 1916 and at the same time solicited plans from architect Windrim.² However, it was April of 1917 before plans were approved and a list of contractors for the purpose of soliciting bids was submitted. The minutes are silent on the progress of the library's construction. Finally, in a letter from the president of the Library Board to the chair of the Carnegie Fund Committee, Henry R. Edmund, submitted Oct. 1918, it is stated that the "Logan Branch has been finished and will shortly be opened to the public." An official public opening was held the following month, on 16 November 1918.³

2. Architect: The architect for the Logan Branch Library was John Torrey Windrim (1866-1934). John T. Windrim and his father, James Hamilton Windrim, enjoyed a successful architectural practice in Philadelphia designing commercial, public, and municipal buildings. The senior Windrim was among the first graduating class of Girard College (for orphaned boys) and in 1871 was appointed architect for the Girard Estate by the Board of City Trusts, a position that his son later assumed. As was common practice at that time, James Windrim learned his craft through an apprenticeship, with architect John Notman. Similarly, John Torey Windrim studied architecture under his father's direction, beginning in 1882. Between 1889 and 1891, James Windrim served as Supervising Architect of the U.S. Treasury, and from 1892 to 1895, as the Director of Public Works for the City of Philadelphia. John T. Windrim thus assumed control of the Windrim firm at a fairly early age (although his father returned to the practice in 1895).

Among the buildings for which father and son are best known are those designed for local corporations such as the Philadelphia Electric Company and the Bell Telephone Company. Similar to the concept of branch libraries, John T. Windrim designed neighborhood sub-stations for these companies, along with their large central facilities

² Free Library of Philadelphia, Carnegie Fund Committee, Minutes, 7 January 1916, 60.

³ Ibid., 23rd *Annual Report of the Library Board*, entries for October and November 1918.

and headquarters buildings. Structures like the Chester Power Station, the Franklin Institute, and the Philadelphia Municipal Court were monumental in scale and of the classically derived, Beaux Arts style. The high visibility of projects such as these established the Windrim's reputation as probably the best known practitioners of the Beaux Arts in the city.⁴

Beyond his skill as an architect, John T. Windrim was influential and well-connected within the city and beyond, belonging to the American Institute of Architects, the Architectural League of New York, the Philadelphia Art Club, the Union League, and the American Institute of Banking. He also served on corporate boards for companies such as the Evening Telegraph Company, Provident Trust, Philadelphia Electric Company, and even the Free Library of Philadelphia.⁵

Generally speaking, the list of architects for Philadelphia's branch libraries is comprised of local notables as well as up-and-coming architects; only two were not Philadelphia based, Carnegie Corporation Secretary Bertram's own architectural advisors Edward L. Tilton (Richmond Branch, 1908) and Henry D. Whitfield (Wissahickon, 1909).⁶ The minutes periodically indicate when suggestions of architects were made and by whom, and also indicate their inclusion to the approved list.⁷ In the case of John T. Windrim, his experience designing municipal architecture made him a natural choice as an architect for a branch library. Windrim contributed to the design and construction of the branch libraries perhaps more than any other architect in the city. His contributions began in 1912 with Passyunk Branch, the first of three branch libraries that he designed. Passyunk was followed by the Nicetown (no longer extant) and Logan branches, built between 1916 and 1918. In addition, during the concluding stages of Philadelphia's library building campaign, as an experienced library designer, John T. Windrim was asked to sit on the Board of Trustees for the Free Library. Windrim was the only architect to serve on the board.

Windrim was asked to take control of the design process during a period in the Philadelphia library building campaign when funds were dwindling at the same time that construction costs were skyrocketing. His expertise was evidently needed to keep both the architects and the contractors in line. A good indicator of what was to come is Windrim's own design for the Logan Branch, begun in 1917. While the building is of decent size and is dignified in its design, Windrim took a minimalist approach. This was a function of cost, as Windrim was forced to go repeatedly back to the drawing board in

⁴ Roger Moss and Sandra Tatman, *Biographical Dictionary of Philadelphia Architects* (Boston: G.K. Hall & Co., 1985), 871-877; and American Architects and Buildings database, biography, Windrim, John Torrey, www.philadelphiabuildings.org/pab/app/ar_display.cfm/21563.

⁵ Moss and Tatman, 873-877.

⁶ Free Library of Philadelphia, Carnegie Fund Committee, Minutes, 25 November 1904. A letter was received from Henry D. Whitfield, and a motion was made to submit his name to the Board as architect of the "Pencoyd Iron Works Branch" [properly named Wissahickon]; same for Edward L. Tilton, to be referred for next branch.

⁷ Ibid, 27 May 1905, "motion that these be added to list to design branches: Benjamin A. Stevens, Louis Baker of Baker and Dallett, Wilson Eyre, Edgar V. Seeler, David Knickerbacker Boyd, Francis G. Caldwell." Of these, Stevens, Eyre and Boyd received commissions for Manayunk, McPherson Square, and Southwark, respectively.

an effort to reduce expenses. It was in this context that Windrim was asked to select and review the work of the architects hired to design the branch libraries.⁸

3. Owners: The library is part of the Free Library of Philadelphia system and is owned by the City of Philadelphia. The land for the library was likewise provided by the city. According to the minutes of the Library Board, they were “authorized by the city solicitor to take possession of the lot at Wagner Avenue and Old York Road for Library purposes.”⁹ Generally speaking, the branch libraries were built on lots donated by private citizens, and often located in neighborhoods that had started their own subscription libraries in preexisting structures. However, the city did provide lots, especially following the initial spate of private contributions, in order to round-out the location of libraries throughout the city and take advantage of existing property.

4. Builder, contractor, suppliers: The construction contract went to general contractors Mark & Yardley Company for \$63, 528. The heating contract was awarded to Hill & Why for \$7,815.00; and the electrical to Baird-Osterhout for \$1,998.26.¹⁰

5. Original plans and construction: Although the original plans have not been located, it can be assumed from the photographs taken by William Rau upon the completion of the library in 1918 that the building remains largely as it was when completed. The final design, however, was altered from the original, as architect Windrim was asked repeatedly to revise his plans in order to cut costs; likewise with the specifications for the builder. The library was erected in the T-shape configuration that came to define Philadelphia’s Carnegie-funded libraries. Rau’s interior photograph depicts a large central reading room bisected into sections by a large circulation desk located to the center and terminating with guardrails around the front entry. Such an arrangement gave the librarian seated at or near the circulation desk a clear view of activities throughout the library. Low bookshelves further serve to distinguish the various sections. A sign indicates that the area to the west side was designated as the “Reference” section. The rear T-section was open to the main reading room, although pocket doors allowed for its isolation as needed. Brass chandeliers with glass globes hung from the ceilings in the Rau photograph, and there are sconces mounted on the built-in shelving. The library is furnished with round tables and Windsor style chairs. Due to cost restrictions, this library lacked the skylight and ornamental ceiling or cornice moldings that appear in most of the other branch libraries.

6. Alterations and additions: All of the Free Library branches were modernized during the late 1950s and early 1960s. This included the up-grading of heating, plumbing and electrical systems, the installation of new rest rooms, the replacement of light fixtures and furnishings, and the painting of the interior including the woodwork. The new rest rooms

⁸ Ibid, 6 March 1923. The following is given in evidence: “Mr. John T. Windrim, a member of the Board of Trustees, had been asked to recommend an architect.” In this instance, Windrim chose Edmund Gilchrist as architect for Cobbs Creek.

⁹ Ibid., 7 January 1916, p. 60.

¹⁰ Ibid., 5 October 1917, p. 84.

are located in the main reading room, flanking the opening to the rear section and protruding into the room. A work space for library staff has been created by partitions in the northeast corner of the main reading room. The library is now lit by florescent light fixtures. Also, the original circulation desk has been replaced by another in the same location.

B. Historical Context:

The Carnegie Funded Free Library of Philadelphia Building Campaign

On 3 January 1903, Carnegie's secretary James Bertram responded to the Free Library of Philadelphia's request for a grant to finance the construction of libraries with the promise of \$1.5 million for a planned thirty branch libraries. Despite the fact that Philadelphia figures quite prominently on the timeline of American Library history, it had no purpose-built public libraries prior to the Carnegie endowment. Philadelphia *did* have the nation's first private subscription library, known as the Library Company, founded in 1731. Numerous other private libraries were created as well, such as the Mercantile Library, Ridgeway Library, and the library at the University of Pennsylvania. And it was in Philadelphia that the American Library Association was formed in 1876. The establishment of the Free Library in 1891 placed Philadelphia among the first American cities to institute a non-subscription public library system for the benefit of all of Philadelphia's citizens. As Library Board president J.G. Rosengarten stated in 1903, "Proprietary libraries have grown into valuable adjuncts to our other education institutions. None of them, however, serves the public as does the Free Library, providing good reading for our school children, for our industrious adult population, and for the city's useful employees, firemen, and telegraph operators."¹¹ As Rosengarten's comment indicates, the library system was an important component of the city's public education.

However, prior to the Carnegie funding, the city's fourteen branch libraries, each started by interested local communities, were dependent upon old mansions, storefronts, or back rooms of commercial buildings and civic institutions for library space. As Rosengarten points out, "The [Carnegie] gift gave welcome relief from the expense of the rented rooms occupied by the branches, and from much of the risk to which the collections were subjected in these temporary quarters."¹² Likewise, prior to the completion of its permanent home in 1927, the Central Branch of the Free Library was housed within three different preexisting buildings, including City Hall, an abandoned concert hall on Chestnut Street, and a building at the northeast corner of 13th and locust streets. Carnegie's \$1.5 million grant would change all that. Beginning in 1905, the endowment was used for the design and construction of twenty-five branch libraries throughout the city (three of which are no longer extant). They were built between 1905 and 1930, with the bulk of them constructed by 1917, and designed by a wide range of Philadelphia architects.

Philadelphia was just one of many cities to receive a library grant. Andrew Carnegie provided forty million dollars for the construction of over 1,600 libraries throughout the United States

¹¹ Theodore Wesley Koch, *A Book of Carnegie Libraries* (New York: The H.W. Wilson Company, 1917), 85.

¹² Ibid.

during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries (and about 400 more abroad). Carnegie was motivated by both his own immigrant experience and by his social/political beliefs. Despite his poor, working-class upbringing, he made a fortune through the production of steel. Believing that the wealthy were obligated to give back to society, Carnegie set out to spend during his lifetime the entire 400 million dollars that he received through the sale of Carnegie Steel Company upon his retirement. Carnegie also believed that given a good work ethic and the proper tools, anyone could be successful. He was self-taught and credited his success to the access he received to one gentleman's private library. Carnegie came to believe in the power of libraries to create an egalitarian society that favored hard work over social privilege. Hence libraries, as a key to learning and socialization, became a focus of his charitable donations.

While Carnegie's motivations were in large part paternalistic, the impact of his library campaign is far greater than merely providing the working class with access to books. The vast resources that he applied to this area lead to great advances in library science as well as to the development of the American Library as a building type. Carnegie applied the corporate business models that had made him successful as an industrialist to the development and production of libraries. He insured that local municipalities have a stake in their libraries by insisting that they supply the building site and the books, as well as ten percent of the total construction cost annually for maintenance. By so doing, Carnegie took libraries from the arena of private philanthropy to that of civic responsibility. Any town that was willing to meet those terms was basically able to receive grant funding. The process began via a letter of application submitted to Andrew Carnegie's personal secretary and the individual charged with management of the library grants, James Bertram. In 1903, the city of Philadelphia did just that.

Unlike its rival New York City, Philadelphia's planning group, the Carnegie Fund Committee, placed librarians and not architects at the forefront of the planning process. This is likely the primary reason for the relative standardization of Philadelphia's branch libraries, particularly with regard to layout. This important decision on the part of the Library Board was in keeping with the sentiments endorsed by the Carnegie Corporation. James Bertram was generally distrustful of architects as library planners, believing that they tended to make libraries too expensive by adding unusable space and superfluous detail merely for affect. He preferred the advice of librarians who better understood how libraries needed to function. Both the Philadelphia Library Board and Carnegie Fund Committee included well-placed librarians, the former being Pennsylvania State Librarian and American Library Association representative Thomas L. Montgomery, and the latter, the Free Library's John Thomson. President of the Board of Education Henry R. Edmunds was also on the Committee, an indication of the significance of the libraries to public education in Philadelphia. Prominent local businessmen and attorneys filled the other positions. As the Committee minutes indicate, the Librarian and Assistant Librarian were left to work out the details with the architects, and generally had the last say when it came to finalizing the plans.¹³ (For more information about the Carnegie Library

¹³ Free Library of Philadelphia, Board of Trustees, Minutes, 1 July 1904. "On motion resolved, that the matter of procuring plans and securing bids be referred to the Carnegie Fund Committee with power." And also, Carnegie Fund Committee Minutes, 17 May 1912. An entry from this meeting (one of many) illustrates that practices: "Mr. Richards [architect] be instructed to prepare plans for the proposed new Paschalville Branch and that the President

construction program and the Free Library of Philadelphia's own library building campaign see, Free Library of Philadelphia, Central Branch, HABS No. PA-6749, Historical Context section.)

The Logan Branch of the Free Library

Architect John Torey Windrim and contractor Mark & Yardley managed to create at Logan a dignified library structure despite the financial setbacks that plagued the building from the very start. Windrim was asked to submit preliminary drawings as soon as the lot was provided by the city, in January 1916. At the same time, the Carnegie Fund Committee in charge of library planning and construction made application to the Carnegie Corporation for an installment of \$15,000 of the \$60,000 in grant funding that had been estimated as the cost for the library's construction, based on the average cost of those libraries already erected. At was at this time that the two groups realized that expected costs were running short of actual expenditures. Following the acknowledgment of the \$15,000 draw for the construction of the Logan Branch, the Librarian of the Free Library and the Chairman of the Carnegie Fund Committee met with James Bertram, the secretary of the Carnegie Corporation, at his Fifth Avenue, New York City office. They informed Bertram that the average cost of the eighteen branch libraries already completed was \$58,055.55, and that the cost estimates for the three branches then either undergoing construction or in the advanced planning stages was \$60,000. With a balance in the original 1.5 million grant fund of \$275,000, only \$30,000 could be expended for each of the remaining nine of the thirty planned branch libraries. The Committee informed Bertram it could be done at that cost, but that it was highly undesirable. Bertram agreed and thus it was determined that only five, rather than nine, more libraries would be constructed at \$55,000 apiece, and a resolution to that effect was drawn up to amend the original agreement.

Perhaps as a hopeful solution to their budgetary woes the committee decided to use a highly experienced architect with whom they had already worked to help them complete the remaining libraries. John T. Windrim was called upon to design the next two libraries, the Nicetown and Logan branches. Nicetown, which is no longer standing, was built in 1917. Windrim submitted preliminary drawings for the Logan Branch to the board and received a favorable response with regard to the "ground plans," but they requested that the architect submit a new design for the exterior.¹⁴ Although no reason was given, it is likely that it was determined to be too elaborate and therefore too costly. And in fact, events would soon prove that staying within even the newly reduced budget was an impossible task. The initial construction bid from Mark & Yardley came in May at a cost of \$56,075, which together with the cost of heating and electrical systems, amounted to \$66,796, not including the architect's fee estimated at \$10,000. The library was over budget even before construction began. Together with equipment and furniture, the estimate for the total cost was revised to \$75,000. A debate arose about whether or not to proceed, but ultimately Chairman Montgomery of the Committee in a letter to the City Librarian stated, "I heartily approve of the acceptance of the lowest bids in connection with the new branch library. We cannot hope to do any better for some time to come and it seems to me that we

be authorized to approve plans for such Branch when same were agreed upon by himself, the Librarian, Asst. Librarian and the architect."

¹⁴ Ibid., Carnegie Fund Committee, Minutes, 6 October 1916.

should not stop our activities by reason of the business conditions which exist.”¹⁵ Montgomery’s comments are in reference to rising costs of both building materials and labor brought on by World War I, which resulted in shortages in both areas. Calling Windrim before the Committee, they received the same answer; it would be difficult now or in the near future to secure a lower bid.

Delaying the contractor, the Committee directed the Librarian to send a telegram to Mr. Franks of the Carnegie Corporation informing him of the overruns on the cost estimates and requesting permission to draw upon the additional funds needed. A special meeting of the committee was called to receive Frank’s response. They were given the authority to proceed, but in the meantime the contractor discovered that he could no longer hold his subcontractors to their original bids; they would have to increase their \$56,075 bid to \$76,800.¹⁶ The Librarian and architect Windrim met with the three contractors and agreed upon changes that resulted in further reductions in cost. Ultimately they settled upon a contractor’s cost of \$63,528; cost for heating of \$7,815 and for electric, \$1,998 for a total of \$73,331. The Carnegie Corporation was authorized to spend an additional \$25,000. Ground was broken on construction on Monday, June 18, and by early October the outer walls had risen to scaffold height.¹⁷

It is to be assumed that construction preceded without significant problems, as the minutes report nothing of the building’s progress. A year later it was reported that the “the Logan Branch building, at Wagner and Old York Rd., has been finished and will shortly be opened.”¹⁸ The official opening was held on 16 November 1918.¹⁹ In the meantime, the McPherson Branch was finished, and architect Windrim and others had completed the Nicetown Branch, both of which opened respectively in May and June of 1917. The Kingsessing Branch was underway by the time that the Logan library was completed. It eventually opened in 1919, after which time a hiatus of about five years occurred before plans could begin for the construction of the Cobbs Creek Branch library in 1924, followed by the last branch, Wyoming, in 1930. The Logan Branch is currently located in a neighborhood of North Philadelphia that is populated by a largely African-American community. As was intended, there is a collection of books designed to cater to that community. The current librarian is Belita Thornton.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: The Logan Branch Library is of a staid neoclassical style consisting of a rectangular main block to the center of which is located its defining feature, a simple portico of Doric columns supporting a dentiled pediment. The building exhibits the symmetry and overall plan typical of Philadelphia’s branch libraries.

¹⁵ Ibid., 17 May 1917, 80.

¹⁶ Ibid., 5 October, 1917, 84.

¹⁷ Ibid.

¹⁸ Ibid., 23rd *Annual Report of the Library Board, 1917*, submitted October 1918.

¹⁹ Ibid.

However its sparse detailing is a reflection of an effort to conserve on costs. The library consists of a single story on a raised basement. It is seven bays across by three bays deep, with a perpendicular rear four-bay-by-three-bay wing to create an overall T-shaped building configuration. Its classically inspired portico is met with corresponding pilasters. The building is finished in an understated manner with only a water table and plain stone frieze to ornament the walls, although they are of an elaborate Flemish-bond brick with beveled corners.

2. Condition of fabric: The building appears to be well maintained and in good condition.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Overall dimensions: The building has a T-shape configuration with a rectangular main block measuring 97'-4" x 34'-4" and intersection rear ell that extends outward 78'.

2. Foundations: The foundations are presumably of stone (inaccessible).

3. Walls: The walls are of Flemish-bond brick with a water table, and the corners of the building are beveled.

4. Structural systems, framing: The structural system is likely of steel with load-bearing masonry walls.

5. Porches, stoops: To the front and center of the library is a full-height portico consisting of four Doric columns supporting a dentiled pediment. In the entablature that supports the pediment is inscribed "THE FREE LIBRARY OF PHILADELPHIA." The columns rest on high plinths and there is an iron railing between the outer columns and their corresponding pilasters, and between the two columns to either side leaving an opening for the steps that lead to the portico.

6. Chimneys: A small exterior brick stack appears to the east side of the rear ell.

7. Openings:

a. Doorways and doors: The principal entry is to the center of the southern façade, under the portico. The double doors are surrounded by a simple stone architrave with "LOGAN BRANCH" inscribed in stone above the door. The raised portico has a granite base and is reached via five stone steps, and there are iron railings. Four large columns sit on stone plinths and there is a corresponding pilaster to either side. There is also a basement entry and vestibule located at the crux of the main block with the rear ell, to the western side of the building. Double doors are flanked by columns surmounted by a simple entablature, and a half-round lunette appears over the doors.

b. Windows and shutters: The typical window is a twelve-over-twelve-light sash with a brick jack-arch lintel and plain stone sill. Over the bottom sash appear wood-frame screens that open as shutters, and there are metal security screens over the windows. Basement windows are located in wells and are covered with iron bars.

8. Roof:

a. Shape, covering: The building appears to have a flat roof (inaccessible). It sits behind a low, uninterrupted parapet that runs the entire length of the building.

b. Cornice, eaves: A stone cornice runs like a belt course around the length of the building, just below the parapet or top of the walls.

C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor plans: The library is entered through a vestibule with tile floor and marble wainscoting. To either side of the vestibule are stone dedication plaques, one crediting the building to Andrew Carnegie and the other crediting the land to the City of Philadelphia. The vestibule is below the level of the first floor, and so a few steps lead up to the double paneled doors with glass lights in the upper panels. The interior of the library is an open space bisected by the circulation desk to the front and center, and low shelving to either side. Free standing librarian's desks are located at various points. The children's reading room is located to the west side of the main reading room, and the adult reading room is located to the east side, and in the rear section, along with books, are computers for community use. Partitions are used to enclose work areas for staff, located in the northeast corner of the main reading room and to the west side of the encased opening in the main reading room. Full-height shelving line the walls and rest on a high plinth that conceals the ducts for the heating and air-conditioning system. The ceiling is without ornament and florescent lighting hangs from it. An encased opening leads to the back section. There is a double doorway located to the west side of the rear ell, near its intersection with the main block that opens on the stairway. A single runs leads to a ground-level exit, located at the landing, and the stair then turns 180 degrees to continue to the basement meeting rooms and work rooms.

At the basement level, a broad central hall provides access to the meeting room and the boiler room towards the front of the building, and staff lounge and kitchen, workrooms and rest rooms to the opposing side. The large meeting room can be entered via three sets of French doors and there is a fourth section of lights that corresponds to the doorways; all have glazed sections above as well. This is the only meeting room that has this arrangement of glazed doors and walls to provide a maximum of accessibility and exchange of light from the basement windows in the meeting room to the center hallway. The meeting room is supported by iron columns. The staff kitchen retains its built in cabinets and swinging door

2. Stairways: The entry to the stairway is located to the west side of the ell. There are double doors with glass upper panels and there is an overmantel-style panel above. Stairs lead down to a landing where there is a set of doors with a half-round transom that provides entry to the basement meeting room from the outside. The second run of the stair is position at a 180 degree angle from the first.

3. Flooring: The original wood flooring has been covered with industrial grade carpet on the main floor, and with linoleum tile in the basement.

4. Wall and ceiling finish: The walls are of plaster.

5. Openings:

a. Doorways and doors: The entry vestibule protrudes slightly into the main reading room. There are double wood doors with glass lights in the top portion. Above the doors is a large wood panel to resemble an overmantle. The open doorway between the main reading room and the rear section has a simple classical entablature.

b. Windows: The windows are surrounded by a simple casing, and those along the front and rear walls are set between plain pilasters.

6. Mechanical equipment:

a. Heating: The ducts for the heating, as with all the branch libraries, are located in the plinth below the book stacks, with registers above, just under the windows.

b. Lighting: The library is lit by florescent lighting that hangs from the ceiling.

c. Plumbing: Restrooms have been added in the main reading room, flanking the opening into the rear ell. Additional restrooms are located in the basement, where there is also a kitchen for staff use.

D. Site: The Logan Library sits on a roughly triangular piece of land formed by the intersection of Wagner Avenue, Old York Road, and North 13th Street, and provides the library with a buffer of green space. Wagner Avenue follows the railroad tracks (not visible from the library) at a diagonal with the otherwise grid pattern of streets that define the layout of the neighborhood. A block west of Old York Road is North Broad Street. Broad Street forms the main north-south thoroughfare through the city of Philadelphia, extending northward into the counties. Broad Street forms a busy commercial corridor, but to the east of the library is low-scale residential development, and Wagner Avenue is quiet and tree-lined. At the time that the library was completed, some low shrubs and clinging vine plants were placed around the foundation. The lot appeared to be otherwise fairly clear, with a few trees rising to the rear. A hedgerow was later planted along the stairway, but it has since been removed. Today, the library is surrounded by mature plantings and shaded by trees.

PART III. SOURCES OF INFORMATION

A. Early views: Free Library of Philadelphia, Annual Report, 1908 (Municipal Reference Division, Cities P53-1154). Includes photographs taken upon completion of the Logan Branch, William H. Rau, photographer. One view is a perspective of the south front and west side of the library, and the other is of the interior of the library taken from the southwest corner of the main reading room, with the circulation desk in the foreground, and the rear T-shaped extension beyond.

B. Bibliography: The records of the Free Library of Philadelphia are located at the Central Library on Vine Street. The *Annual Reports* are located in the Municipal Reference Division, Cities P53-1154; and the Carnegie Fund Committee Minute Books are located in the Director's Vault (access by special permission).

1. Primary sources:

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PART IV. PROJECT INFORMATION

The documentation of the Logan Branch Library was undertaken by the Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS) of the Heritage Documentation Programs of the National Park Service, Richard O'Connor, Chief during summer 2007 as part of a larger initiative to record the Carnegie Funded branch libraries of the Free Library of Philadelphia. The project is sponsored by HABS in cooperation with the Preservation Alliance for Greater Philadelphia, John A. Gallery, director; and the Free Library of Philadelphia, William J. Fleming, Administrative Services Director, and made possible through a Congressional appropriation for recording in Southeastern Pennsylvania. The historical reports were prepared by Lisa P. Davidson and Catherine C. Lavoie. Large-format photography was undertaken for HABS by Joseph Elliott. Measured drawings were prepared of the Thomas Holme Branch as the typical branch library during the summer 2008. The drawings team was led by Robert Arzola, working with Jason McNatt, Paul Davidson, and Ann Kidd, architectural technicians.